

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 OMB-01 ACDA-05 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /066 W

----- 105841

O P 210818Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4022

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

COMUSK PRIORITY

COMUSJ PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 9011

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR US KS JA

SUBJECT: US-ROK JOINT COMMAND

REF: (A) SEOUL 8910 DTG 180759Z NOV 75

(B) STATE 271885 DTG 172111Z NOV 75

1. MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE SO CHONG-CHOL HAS PROVIDED CINCUNC AUTHORITATIVE VERSION OF REMARKS REGARDING A POSSIBLE US-ROK JOINT COMMAND BEFORE NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 11 AS REFLECTED IN PRESS AND REPORTED PARA 1 REF A. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, THE NEWS REPORTS WERE WILDLY DISTORTED. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY FROM COMMITTEE MEMBER REGARDING U.S. MILITARY REACTION IF NORTH KOREA ATTACKED ROK, MINISTER SO REPLIED HE WAS CONFIDENT U.S. WOULD HONOR TREATY COMMITMENT. NEXT QUESTION WAS WHETHER U.S. RESPONSE WOULD BE LIMITED TO KOREA-BASED FORCES. SO RESPONDED HE EXPECTED EXTERNAL U.S. FORCES WOULD ALSO PARTICIPATE, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING U.S. COMBAT UNITS IN JAPAN AND B-52'S OPERATING FROM GUAM. HE SAID HE HAD MADE NO COMMENT WHATSOEVER ABOUT OFF-SHORE COMMAND

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ARRANGEMENTS.

2. MINISTER ALSO SAID SUBJECT OF POST-UNC COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN RAISED AT EARLIER MEETING OF NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY ABOUT WHETHER HE WAS INVOLVED IN ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH CINCUNC ABOUT SUCCESSOR COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS, MINISTER SAID HE REPLIED NO, THIS SUBJECT WAS STILL AT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL. NEITHER EMBASSY NOR CINCUNC HAS BEEN ASKED ABOUT THIS SUBJECT.

3. ACCORDING TO MOFA, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER NO SIN-YONG'S NOVEMBER 10 REMARKS AS REPORTED IN PRESS (REF A, PARA 3) APPEARED IN PRESS WITHOUT CAVEATS IN MANNER WHICH ALTERED MEANING. BECAUSE PRESS REPORTS DISTORTED MEANING, NO RESTATED HIS POSITION IN NOVEMBER 11 FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING. MOFA SAID NOVEMBER 11 STATEMENT, ROUGH MOFA TRANSLATION OF WHICH FOLLOWS, WAS MORE ACCURATELY REPORTED BY PRESS.

4. STATEMENT BY ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER: QUOTE. WITH REGARD TO THE PROBLEM OF OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF KOREAN FORCES, THIS PROBLEM COULD BE STUDIED AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME KIND OF SUBSTITUTE TO THE PRESENT ARMISTICE AGREEMENT WHICH COULD HELP DISSOLVE THE UNC, AT PRESENT THERE ARE NO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE ROK AND THE U.S. ON THAT MATTER. END QUOTE. SNEIDER

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